

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A ball transfer unit comprising:

- a) a main body having a seat surface recessed in a semispherical shape;
- b) a plurality of small balls which are each in freely rolling contact with the seat surface of the main body,
- c) a large ball which is in freely rolling contact with the plurality of small balls, and
- d) a cover which is attached to the main body and is adapted for holding the large ball and for holding the small balls between the large ball and the seat surface of the main body;

wherein at least the main body and the large ball are made of a material selected from among PAI, PBI, PCTFE, PEEK, PEI, PI, PPS, melamine resins, aromatic polyamide resins, aluminum oxide, zirconium oxide and silicon nitride;

wherein the main body, the small balls, and the large ball each have a Rockwell hardness H_RR of at least 75.

Claim 2 (Canceled)

Claim 3 (Previously Presented): The ball transfer unit of claim 1, wherein the main body, the small balls and the large ball each have a heat deflection temperature, according to the ASTM D648 test, of at least 120°C.

Claim 4 (Previously Presented): The ball transfer unit of claim 1, wherein the small balls are formed of the same material as the main body or the large ball.

Claim 5 (Previously Presented): The ball transfer unit of claim 1 wherein the ball transfer unit is made of a single material.

Claim 6 (Previously Presented): The ball transfer unit of Claim 5, wherein the single material is PBI, PEEK, or PI.

Claim 7 (Previously Presented): The ball transfer unit of Claim 1, wherein the small balls are formed of stainless steel.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): The ball transfer unit of any one of Claims 1, 3, 4, 5, 6 or 7, wherein the main body has an annular groove formed on an outer peripheral surface thereof; and wherein the cover has a tubular portion adapted to fit onto the main body so as to encircle the outer peripheral surface, and also has an annular catch which is formed on an inner peripheral side at a bottom end of the tubular portion, is elastically deformable in the radial direction and can engage the interior of the annular groove, which catch has an inside diameter that is smaller than the outside diameter of the main body.

Claim 9 (Previously Presented): The ball transfer unit of Claim 1, further comprising having a through hole that penetrates through the main body wherein one end being opened on the seat surface.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): A ball table used for supporting a transported material, the ball table being comprised of a plurality of ball transfer units according to any one of Claims 1, 3, 4, 5, 6 or 7 and a supporting member in which the ball transfer units are fixed at predetermined intervals.

Claim 11 (Previously Presented): The ball table of Claim 10, wherein the transported material is a semiconductor wafer or a glass substrate for a flat panel display.